



School Name: Mohave Community College (AZ) Report from Fall 2016 Survey of Student Basic Needs

In fall 2016 the Wisconsin HOPE Lab at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), with support from the Kresge Foundation, conducted a large-scale survey to better understand food and housing insecurity among community college students. The effort built on a similar survey of ten community colleges during the 2014-2015 academic year. In total, seventy institutions from twenty-four states participated in the 2016 survey.

This report presents a profile of survey participants at your college. In addition, the report compares institution-level results with aggregated results from the other colleges in your institution’s region of the country (not including your own) and from the national survey sample. National sample results are similar to those found in the associated survey report *Hungry and Homeless in College: Results from a National Study of Basic Needs Insecurity in Higher Education*.ⁱ (Please note that some values are not listed due to small sample size.)

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or the ability to acquire such foods in a socially acceptable manner.ⁱⁱ To assess food insecurity among students, the survey instrument included the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) 6-item Food Security Survey Module (FSSM).ⁱⁱⁱ Table 1 displays results from the FSSM.

Table 1: Responses to Specific Items in USDA 6-Item Food Security Scale (Last 30 Days)

	Institution	Region	National
<i>The food that I bought just didn't last and I didn't have enough money to get more</i>	53%	54%	52%
<i>I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals</i>	67%	62%	60%
<i>Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?</i>	44%	49%	46%
<i>3 or more days: Did you ever cut the size of your meals or skip meals because there wasn't enough money for food?</i>	33%	34%	32%
<i>Did you ever eat less than you felt you should because there wasn't enough money for food?</i>	43%	46%	43%
<i>Were you ever hungry but didn't eat because there wasn't enough money for food?</i>	35%	39%	36%



The USDA recommends assigning each respondent a score based on the total number of affirmative answers on the 6-item instrument. That score determines a person’s food security status via a four-category scale, where a score of zero corresponds to high food security, one to marginal food security, two to four translate to low food security, and scores of five or six indicate very low food security. Taken together, people who report low and very low food security can be referred to as food insecure.^{iv} Figure 2 shows food security scores and categories across the three samples.

Table 2: Prevalence of Food Insecurity (Last 30 Days)

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Food security (last 30 days)</i>			
High security (score = 0)	25%	30%	33%
Marginal security (score = 1)	21%	11%	12%
Low security (score = 2-4)	19%	23%	23%
Very low security (score = 5-6)	35%	36%	33%

Housing Insecurity

Housing insecurity can involve unaffordable housing, poor housing quality, crowding, and frequent moves.^v The survey instrument included five items to assess whether a student has experienced housing insecurity in the past twelve months. Students are classified as housing insecure if they answered affirmatively to at least one of those items. Table 3 shows institutional, regional, and national housing insecurity statistics. Over half the students in the national sample experienced housing insecurity in the past 12 months, similar to the rates measured in the Wisconsin HOPE Lab’s 2014-15 survey.

Table 3: Prevalence of Housing Insecurity (Past 12 Months)

	Institution	Region	National
Any of the below items:	62%	53%	51%
...Didn't pay full amount of rent or mortgage	26%	22%	21%
...Didn't pay full amount of utilities	36%	29%	28%
...Moved 2 or more times per year	14%	14%	14%
...Doubled up	17%	19%	17%
...Moved in with other people due to financial problems	20%	20%	18%



Homelessness

Homelessness indicates that a person is without a place to live, often residing in a shelter, automobile, an abandoned building, or outside. Students are considered homeless if they answered affirmatively to at least one of six items. These items, and an overall measure of homelessness, are displayed in Table 4. National rates of homelessness are similar to those found in the 2014-15 survey, which found that thirteen percent of students had experienced homelessness in the past year.

Table 4: Prevalence of Homelessness (Past 12 Months)

	Institution	Region	National
Any of the below items:	8%	16%	14%
... <i>Thrown out of home</i>	5%	7%	6%
... <i>Evicted from home</i>	1%	4%	3%
... <i>Stayed in a shelter</i>	1%	2%	2%
... <i>Stayed in an abandoned building, auto, or other place not meant as housing</i>	1%	5%	4%
... <i>Did not know where you were going to sleep, even for one night</i>	4%	9%	8%
... <i>Didn't have a home</i>	0%	3%	2%

Demographic Disparities in Basic Needs Security

Tables 5, 6, and 7 present measures of food insecurity, housing insecurity, and homelessness, respectively, for various demographic groups. In the national survey sample, students with children and students who had ever been placed in foster care showed higher levels of both food and housing insecurity than their counterparts. One of the most striking results described in the national report is the vast disparity in homelessness for students who have experienced foster care. These statistics imply that institutional outreach efforts targeted toward former foster youth are likely to connect with many students who could benefit from food and housing assistance.



Table 5: Demographic Disparities in Food Insecurity

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Sex</i>			
Female	57%	59%	58%
Male	40%	57%	52%
<i>Race</i>			
White, non-Hispanic or Latino	51%	53%	52%
African American		75%	69%
Hispanic	47%	59%	57%
American Indian		72%	70%
SE Asian		47%	47%
Other Asian		46%	47%
More than one race	60%	64%	61%
<i>Age</i>			
18-20	33%	49%	46%
21-25	57%	63%	59%
26-30	62%	63%	62%
Over 30	58%	62%	61%
<i>Highest level of parental education (either parent)</i>			
High school or less	51%	62%	61%
Some college	54%	61%	59%
Associate's degree	57%	57%	53%
Bachelor's degree	72%	51%	48%
Graduate degree	40%	48%	44%
<i>Immigration status</i>			
Student a citizen or permanent resident	54%	59%	56%
Student NOT a citizen or permanent resident		52%	51%
Either parent a citizen or permanent resident	54%	59%	56%
Neither parent a citizen or permanent resident		55%	53%



Table 5: Demographic Disparities in Food Insecurity (Continued)

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Pell Grant receipt</i>			
No	44%	53%	49%
Yes	60%	67%	65%
<i>Ever served in the armed forces</i>			
No	55%	59%	56%
Yes	50%	59%	54%
<i>Current relationship status</i>			
Single	50%	59%	55%
Divorced or widowed		73%	70%
In a relationship	56%	63%	59%
Married	57%	49%	50%
<i>Parent claims student as a dependent</i>			
No	59%	62%	60%
Yes	30%	52%	48%
<i>Student has children</i>			
No	56%	57%	53%
Yes	52%	64%	63%
<i>Ever placed in foster care</i>			
No	54%	58%	56%
Yes		78%	75%



Table 6: Demographic Disparities in Housing Insecurity

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Sex</i>			
Female	62%	54%	53%
Male	60%	48%	44%
<i>Race</i>			
White, non-Hispanic or Latino	63%	50%	48%
African American		72%	64%
Hispanic	57%	51%	49%
American Indian		70%	68%
SE Asian		44%	42%
Other Asian		38%	40%
More than one race	60%	56%	54%
<i>Age</i>			
18-20	63%	34%	33%
21-25	49%	55%	52%
26-30	67%	64%	62%
Over 30	66%	61%	60%
<i>Highest level of parental education (either parent)</i>			
High school or less	64%	55%	54%
Some college	61%	56%	53%
Associate's degree	62%	52%	48%
Bachelor's degree	64%	45%	43%
Graduate degree	70%	46%	43%
<i>Immigration status</i>			
Student a citizen or permanent resident	63%	53%	50%
Student NOT a citizen or permanent resident		50%	49%
Either parent a citizen or permanent resident	62%	53%	50%
Neither parent a citizen or permanent resident		49%	49%



Table 6: Demographic Disparities in Housing Insecurity (Continued)

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Pell Grant receipt</i>			
No	58%	48%	44%
Yes	65%	61%	60%
<i>Ever served in the armed forces</i>			
No	61%	52%	50%
Yes	70%	58%	54%
<i>Current relationship status</i>			
Single	53%	51%	48%
Divorced or widowed		71%	71%
In a relationship	74%	54%	50%
Married	57%	49%	51%
<i>Parent claims student as a dependent</i>			
No	64%	59%	57%
Yes	53%	37%	35%
<i>Student has children</i>			
No	58%	49%	45%
Yes	69%	62%	63%
<i>Ever placed in foster care</i>			
No	62%	51%	49%
Yes		74%	72%



Table 7: Demographic Disparities in Homelessness

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Sex</i>			
Female	8%	15%	14%
Male	7%	18%	16%
<i>Race</i>			
White, non-Hispanic or Latino	5%	14%	12%
African American		28%	22%
Hispanic	7%	13%	12%
American Indian		23%	22%
SE Asian		14%	13%
Other Asian		13%	14%
More than one race	10%	20%	19%
<i>Age</i>			
18-20	4%	13%	13%
21-25	6%	17%	15%
26-30	10%	17%	15%
Over 30	10%	17%	15%
<i>Highest level of parental education (either parent)</i>			
High school or less	12%	16%	15%
Some college	9%	17%	15%
Associate's degree	5%	15%	13%
Bachelor's degree	0%	12%	12%
Graduate degree	10%	13%	12%
<i>Immigration status</i>			
Student a citizen or permanent resident	8%	16%	14%
Student NOT a citizen or permanent resident		14%	14%
Either parent a citizen or permanent resident	8%	16%	14%
Neither parent a citizen or permanent resident		14%	14%



Table 7: Demographic Disparities in Homelessness (Continued)

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Pell Grant receipt</i>			
No	7%	14%	12%
Yes	8%	19%	16%
<i>Ever served in the armed forces</i>			
No	8%	16%	14%
Yes	0%	19%	16%
<i>Current relationship status</i>			
Single	9%	18%	16%
Divorced or widowed		23%	20%
In a relationship	12%	16%	14%
Married	2%	8%	7%
<i>Parent claims student as a dependent</i>			
No	9%	17%	14%
Yes	0%	12%	12%
<i>Student has children</i>			
No	9%	16%	14%
Yes	5%	17%	14%
<i>Ever placed in foster care</i>			
No	8%	15%	13%
Yes		34%	29%

Accessing Public Assistance

In addition to measuring basic needs insecurity, the survey included multiple items to characterize food insecure and housing insecure students' strategies for addressing the shortfalls they experience. Students were asked whether they had received assistance from a variety of social programs during the past year. Undergraduates may be eligible for multiple social programs to assist with food, housing, child care, transportation, health care, and other expenses. However, program restrictions often prevent students from receiving assistance. For example, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) requires undergraduates without children to work at least twenty hours per week. Due to shortages in subsidized housing, eligibility for housing assistance does not guarantee participation.



Students' utilization of public assistance is shown in Tables 8 and 9. In the national sample, SNAP, Medicaid or other public health insurance, and tax refunds were the most common forms of support. Very few needy students, however, received the help they needed.

Table 8: Public Assistance for Food Insecure Students

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Financial aid receipt and employment</i>			
Pell Grant	69%	46%	49%
Other federal or state grants	11%	22%	23%
Institutional grants	11%	10%	8%
Any grant	75%	60%	61%
Employed in last week	60%	49%	56%
Any grant and employed in last week	43%	26%	31%
<i>Food-related public assistance</i>			
SNAP (food stamps)	34%	29%	29%
WIC (nutritional assistance for pregnant women and children)	6%	6%	6%
Receive free food or meals	14%	24%	23%
<i>Housing-related public assistance</i>			
Housing assistance	10%	15%	13%
Utility assistance	6%	4%	5%
<i>Other public assistance</i>			
TANF	1%	6%	4%
SSI	2%	4%	4%
SSDI	5%	4%	4%
Medicaid or public health insurance	30%	25%	26%
Child care assistance	0%	4%	5%
Unemployment compensation/insurance	0%	3%	3%
Transportation assistance	0%	5%	4%
Tax refunds	21%	21%	24%
Veteran's benefits	6%	3%	4%

Table Notes: Housing assistance includes direct housing assistance, living in a housing project, and receiving a housing voucher.



Table 9: Public Assistance for Housing Insecure or Homeless Students

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Financial aid receipt and employment</i>			
Pell Grant	65%	47%	50%
Other federal or state grants	13%	22%	23%
Institutional grants	12%	10%	8%
Any grant	72%	60%	62%
Employed in last week	59%	51%	57%
Any grant and employed in last week	39%	27%	32%
<i>Food-related public assistance</i>			
SNAP (food stamps)	34%	31%	32%
WIC (nutritional assistance for pregnant women and children)	4%	8%	7%
Receive free food or meals	16%	25%	24%
<i>Housing-related public assistance</i>			
Housing assistance	11%	14%	13%
Utility assistance	4%	5%	6%
<i>Other public assistance</i>			
TANF	0%	7%	5%
SSI	3%	4%	4%
SSDI	5%	4%	4%
Medicaid or public health insurance	31%	27%	28%
Child care assistance	1%	5%	5%
Unemployment compensation/insurance	2%	4%	4%
Transportation assistance	1%	5%	4%
Tax refunds	22%	22%	26%
Veteran's benefits	10%	3%	4%

Table Notes: Housing assistance includes direct housing assistance, living in a housing project, and receiving a housing voucher.



Summary Statistics

To better facilitate comparisons with regional and national data and to assess which students at your college may have been more or less likely to respond to the survey instrument, Table 10 presents summary statistics for each of the three samples.

Table 10: Summary Statistics

	Institution	Region	National
Female	81%	72%	72%
<i>Race</i>			
White, non-Hispanic or Latino	72%	33%	44%
African American	1%	10%	11%
Hispanic	9%	34%	25%
Native American	3%	1%	1%
SE Asian	0%	3%	2%
Other Asian	2%	6%	5%
More than one race	12%	13%	12%
<i>Age</i>			
18-20	17%	26%	30%
21-25	23%	25%	26%
26-30	13%	15%	15%
Over 30	47%	33%	29%
<i>Highest level of parental education</i>			
High school or less	28%	41%	35%
Some college	36%	28%	29%
Associate's degree	13%	7%	9%
Bachelor's degree	16%	15%	17%
Graduate degree	6%	9%	10%
<i>Immigration status</i>			
Student a citizen or permanent resident	100%	95%	95%
Student NOT a citizen or permanent resident	0%	5%	5%
Either parent a citizen or permanent resident	100%	88%	91%
Neither parent a citizen or permanent resident	0%	12%	9%



Table 10: Summary Statistics (Continued)

	Institution	Region	National
<i>Family characteristics</i>			
Parent or guardian claims student as dependent	19%	28%	30%
Ever placed in foster care	6%	5%	5%
Have children	39%	28%	28%
<i>Relationship status</i>			
Single	34%	51%	49%
Divorced or widowed	4%	5%	4%
In a relationship	33%	25%	29%
Married or domestic partnership	29%	18%	18%
<i>Year in college</i>			
Less than 1	28%	26%	29%
1 to 2	40%	38%	39%
More than 2	32%	36%	32%
<i>Financial aid and employment</i>			
Receives the Pell Grant	62%	40%	42%
Enrolled full-time	49%	59%	59%
Employed in last week	57%	52%	58%
Number of hours worked last week	28	26	27



Questions?

If you have any questions about this report or food and housing resources, please contact Wisconsin HOPE Lab Acting Director Jed Richardson by email at jed.richardson@wisc.edu or by phone at (608) 890-2946.

The Wisconsin HOPE Lab – Food and Housing Resources for Students and Institutions

The Wisconsin HOPE Lab was established in 2013 on the University of Wisconsin–Madison campus to engage in translational research aimed at improving equitable outcomes in postsecondary education. For more information on material need among college students, and for helpful food and housing resources for those seeking to help struggling students, visit the Wisconsin HOPE Lab at <http://www.wihopelab.com/events/realcollege.html>.

About the Association of Community College Trustees

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) is a non-profit educational organization of governing boards, representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical, and junior colleges in the United States and beyond. For more information, go to www.acct.org. Follow ACCT on Twitter at twitter.com/CCTrustees.

ⁱ Goldrick-Rab, S., Richardson, J., & Hernandez, A. 2017. Hungry and homeless in college: Results from a national study of basic needs insecurity in higher education. Wisconsin HOPE Lab. Retrieved from <http://www.wihopelab.com/publications/Hungry-and-Homeless-in-College-Report.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Anderson, S.A. 1990. Core indicators of nutritional state for difficult-to-sample populations. *The Journal of Nutrition*, 120(11), 1557-1599.

ⁱⁱⁱ U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2017. Survey tools. Retrieved from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/survey-tools/>

^{iv} U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service. 2012. U.S. household security survey Module: Six-item short form. Retrieved from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/media/8282/short2012.pdf>

^v Cutts, D.B., Meyers, A.F., Black, M.M., Casey, P.H., Chilton, M., Cook, J.T., ... & Frank, D.A. 2011. U.S. housing insecurity and the health of very young children. *American Journal of Public Health*, 101(8), 1508-1514.